

Marshall, Paul

From: Tipton, Lantz
Sent: Thursday, December 22, 2016 10:43 AM
To: Oesterreich, Justin; Bahney, Kimberly; Jay, Michael; Terriquez, Joe; Hayes, Scott; Draper, Seth; Marshall, Paul; Green, Pete; Field, Jeff; Williams, Spencer; Rosado-Chaparro, Wilfredo; Buchholz, Ken
Cc: Huffman, Diane; Miller, Patricia G.; Breedlove, Dan; Smith, John
Subject: FW: (CWA - FY17-151109-3709-CV) Referred to Region - Nebraska

All,

Below is a complaint that was received regarding the ongoing issues at the Big Ox Energy facility. This appears to be from the former plant manager of the facility.

Joe and I plan to contact him to get more specific information about this. I will also refer this information to IDNR for their review regarding the fish kill investigation.

Please let me know if there are any questions.

Thanks

Lantz Tipton
WENF/WWPD
U.S. EPA Region 7
11201 Renner Blvd.
Lenexa, KS 66219
913-551-7892
tipton.lantz@epa.gov

From: Robinson.Kathy@epa.gov [mailto:Robinson.Kathy@epa.gov]
Sent: Thursday, December 22, 2016 9:54 AM
To: Tipton, Lantz <tipton.lantz@epa.gov>
Cc: Huffman, Diane <Huffman.Diane@epa.gov>
Subject: FWD: (CWA - FY17-151109-3709-CV) Referred to Region - Nebraska

12/22/2016

SUBJECT: FWD: (CWA - FY17-151109-3709-CV) Referred to Region - Nebraska
FROM: Robinson.Kathy@epa.gov
TO: tipton.lantz@epa.gov
CC: huffman.diane@epa.gov

Complaint. Forwarded for review/action. Please update ECO with the resolution of this complaint.

-----Original Message-----

12/20/2016 11:26 AM

HQ LEAD NUMBER: FY17-151109-3709-CV

SUBJECT: Referred to Region - Nebraska

FROM: ronharnack@yahoo.com

TO:

Name: Ron Harnack

Address: 19936 Hiway 140

City: Remsen

State: Iowa

Zip: 51050

Phone: 7123580055

Alleged Violator's Name: Big Ox Energy

Alleged Violator's Address: 1617 D Ave.

Alleged Violator's City: Dakota City

Alleged Violator's State: Nebraska

Alleged Violator's Zip: 68713

Tip or Complaint: Big Ox Energy is operating their flare well below the permitted temperature allowing H₂S gas to escape to the atmosphere. They also have allowed untreated waste from digesters to flow from plant and into storm drains. Recent cold weather froze this activity. I worked as the Plant Manager but resigned in protest of executive team ignoring regulations and employee safety. I was at the Big Ox plant in Riceville, Iowa when a major spill from the digester allowed 40,000 gallons to flow into a local stream. Big Ox buried it and reported days later to DNR they had an 1100 gallon mishap. This led to a fish kill that is still being investigated.

Violation Still Occurring? Yes

State DEP/DEQ/DEM Notified? No